



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

June 21, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE AERIAL RETARDANT GUIDELINE REVIEW

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has released a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for the continued nationwide aerial application of fire retardant on National Forest System lands. The comment period for this EIS is from May 13, 2011 to June 27, 2011, leading up to a decision on whether to continue with the aerial application of fire retardant and if so, under the 2000 Guidelines or under some revised guidelines.

History shows that wildland fires do not respect jurisdictional boundaries, so fire management policies and guidelines adopted by the USFS also impact local fire agencies. Any limitations to the current USFS policies and guidelines for the application of aerial retardant could potentially lead to an increase in the size and cost of suppressing wildland fires that start on the Angeles National Forest. As past experience has taught us, larger wildland fires in the Angeles National Forest put the citizens and values of Los Angeles County at greater risk.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department is strongly opposed to any further limitations to the current USFS Aerial Retardant Guidelines. The application of aerial retardant and gels can be of significant assistance during the suppression of a wildland incident by slowing the spread of the fire and giving fire fighters the ability to keep the fire small.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INDUSTRY	LAKEWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	COMMERCE	GLENDALE	IRVINDALE	LAVINDALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	CUDAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA HABRA	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
BRADBURY							WHITTIER

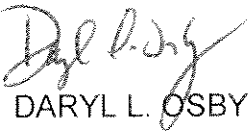
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Additionally, other wildland fire agencies utilized the USFS Aerial Retardant Guidelines as operating procedures, so limitations in the guidelines will affect the use of retardant by other wildland fire agencies as well.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department requests that your Honorable Board express our reservations and serious concerns with imposing any additional limitations to the current USFS Aerial Retardant Application Guidelines, including when the aerial application of retardant is authorize and where retardant can be applied from the air.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me at (323) 881-6180.

Respectfully submitted,



DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

DLO:lg

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